



National  
Infant & Toddler  
Child Care  
Initiative

ZERO TO THREE

A Project of the  
Child Care  
Bureau

Office of Family  
Assistance,  
U.S. Department  
of Health and  
Human Services

# Using Inter Disciplinary Consultants to Support Quality in Infant/Toddler Child Care

National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative  
Webinar

April 29, 2010



# Presenters

## **Dianne E. Stetson**

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist  
National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative  
ZERO TO THREE

[dstetson@zerotothree.org](mailto:dstetson@zerotothree.org)

## **Shireen Riley, Ph.D.**

Regional Child Care Program Manager  
Child Care Bureau, Office of Family Assistance  
Administration for Children and Families

[shireen.riley@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:shireen.riley@acf.hhs.gov)

## **Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.**

Child Development Bureau Administrator  
NH Division for Children, Youth and Families

[ewheatley@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:ewheatley@dhhs.state.nh.us)



# Today's Objectives

- Share information on interdisciplinary consultation as a strategy to improve quality in infant/toddler child care settings.
- Share information on State & Regional efforts to build collaborative interdisciplinary consultant networks.
- Discuss methods that can foster collaborative consultation including interdisciplinary training, standards, supports, and policy.



# Definitions

- Child care consultation
- Multidisciplinary consultation
- Interdisciplinary consultation
- Transdisciplinary consultation



# Consultation Models

---

Multi-  
disciplinary

Inter-  
disciplinary

Trans-disciplinary



# Building Interdisciplinary Child Care Consultant (ICCC) Networks: Why it's important

- Improving quality in infant/toddler child care settings is challenging.
- States, communities and programs are spending significant resources to provide consultation to child care programs.
- High quality consistent consultant services requires collaboration across agencies and systems.



# Building Interdisciplinary Child Care Consultant Networks

Can be initiated by:

- Consultant networks
- QRIS efforts
- CCR&R
- Funders/Polycymakers



# Approaches

- Communication
- Co-training
- Infrastructure Development
- System Initiative





# National Context

- CCDF targeted funds for Infants/Toddlers
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Child Care Bureau Priorities



# Regional Context

- 23 states have I/T Specialist Networks—only 1 state in Region 1
- All 6 states in Region strengthening the quality of I/T care through a variety of mechanisms
- Range of consultant disciplines already working with I/T programs



# Region I Consultant Initiatives

- NITCCI in collaboration with Region I states collected information on consultants working in infant/toddler settings in New England. (2009 spring),
- Reviewed:
  - types/disciplines,
  - licensing requirements
  - consultant initiatives
  - multi/inter disciplinary initiatives
  - standards
  - supports



# Types of Child Care Consultants

- Health
- Mental Health
- Infant Toddler Specialists
- QRIS
- Resource Development
- Early Childhood Education
- Early Intervention/Inclusion
- Social Service
- Head Start/Early Head Start



# Region I Project

## **SUPPORTING CONSULTANTS WORKING WITH EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SETTINGS SERVING INFANTS & TODDLERS**

- Origins in Healthy Child Care New England partnership & National Training Institute modules
- 3 Infant/Toddler Modules developed with NITCCI
- 5 month process of training, collaboration & planning followed by implementation of action plan



Ongoing Role of Regional Office

# Region 1 ACF Goals for Supporting these Efforts

- Build partnerships across child care, Head Start, health and education, to promote an integrated mixed delivery system with expanded high quality choices for families
- Strengthen state professional development systems, including the education, training and support of consultants working with child care programs



# Desired Long-Term Outcomes

- To promote the professional development of Infant/Toddler caregivers by strengthening the consultation provided to I/T programs.
- To promote effective consultation to Infant/Toddler settings
- To promote QRIS that are responsive to the needs of Infant/Toddler programs





# Consultation to Infant/Toddler Programs in New Hampshire

Child Development Bureau

NH Division for Children Youth and Families

NH Department of Health and Human Services



# Who We Brought Together

- Child Care Training Specialist
- Child Care Administrator
- Healthy Child Care
- Special Medical Services
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Child Care Licensing

# What We Were Already Doing

- Relationship Building: Visits to higher ed programs, provider groups, advocates
- PTAN
- PCAN
- Mind in the Making – Work and Family Institute
- Infant Mental Health Teams
- Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- Creating the Allied Professional Credential

# Why We Like the Modules

- Interactive, not canned
- Teaches consulting as a knowledge base and set of skills
- Emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of infant/toddler care
- Has breath and depth of knowledge regarding working with infants/toddlers
- Provides a way to bring new consultants into the field
- Effective way to bring interdisciplinary, multi-system teams together

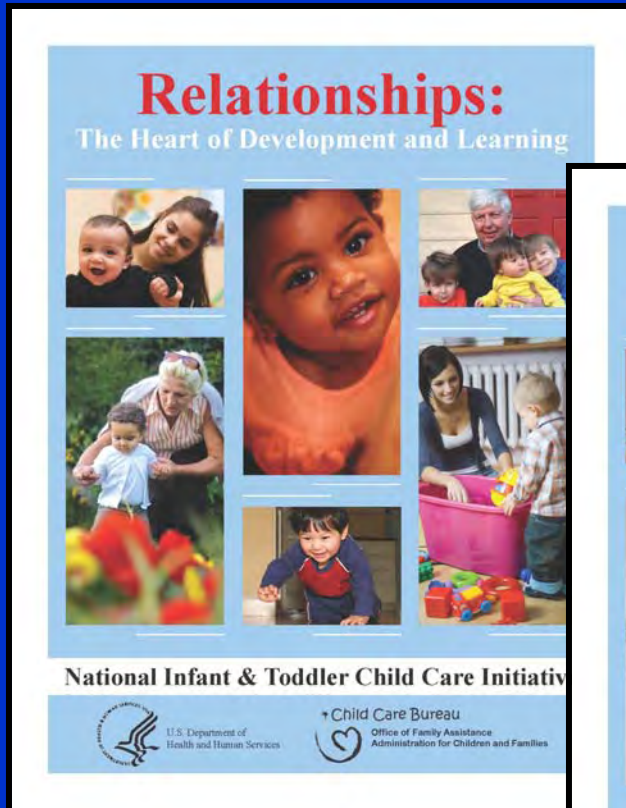
# What the Module Days Helped Us to Think About

- How to build cross-walks with all the quality initiatives
- How to build an interdisciplinary professional development system
- How to build into the further development of the QRIS
- Creating and improving Statewide and regional consultation teams

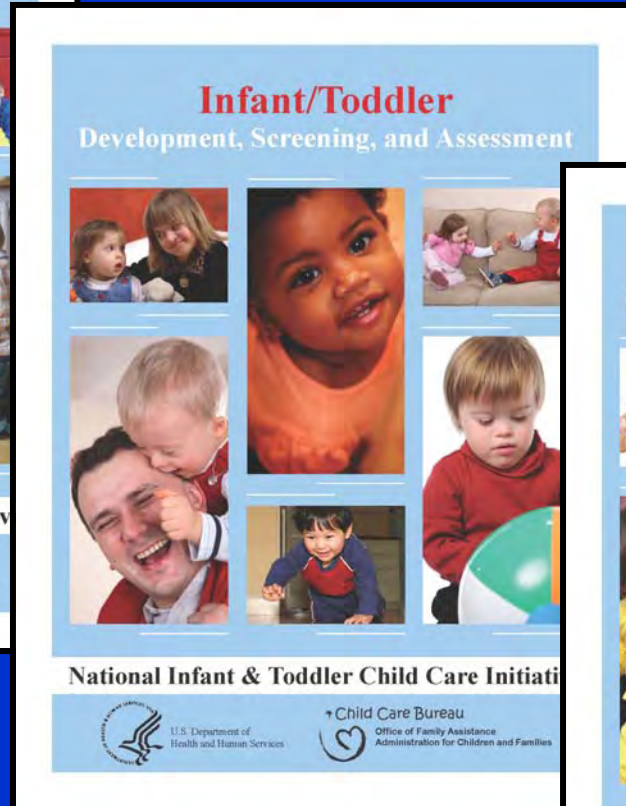
# What Our Plans Are

- Survey – Why do child care programs use consultants... or why not
- Resource fair
- Recruiting – How to identify potential consultants
- Growing consultants – Consultant Development Program
- Interactive webinar series for consultants
- Consultant e-newsletter
- Teaching providers to use consultation through CCR&R and higher education

# Modules



Relationships: The  
Heart of Development  
and Learning



Infant/Toddler  
Development,  
Screening, and  
Assessment

Infant/Toddler  
Curriculum and  
Individualization



# Region I Action Plans

- Consultant surveys
- Mapping consultant resources & related initiatives
- Interdisciplinary training
- Development of online training
- Development of graduate level course
- Integration of other initiatives
- Development of CKCs for consultants



# Question & Answer

**Dianne E. Stetson**

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist

National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative

ZERO TO THREE

[dstetson@zerotothree.org](mailto:dstetson@zerotothree.org)

**Shireen Riley, Ph.D.**

Regional Child Care Program Manager

Child Care Bureau, Office of Family Assistance

Administration for Children and Families

[shireen.riley@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:shireen.riley@acf.hhs.gov)

**Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.**

Child Development Bureau Administrator

NH Division for Children, Youth and Families

[ewheatley@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:ewheatley@dhhs.state.nh.us)





# National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Administration for Children & Families

National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative  
ZERO TO THREE

Home | About Us | What's New | State & Territory Information | Resources | FAQs | E-Newsletter

Welcome to The National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative

The National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative © ZERO TO THREE (NITCCI) is a project of the Child Care Bureau. NITCCI works collaboratively with Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) administrators and other partners to advance system initiatives to improve the quality and supply of infant/toddler child care. Through customized technical assistance, NITCCI works with States, Territories, and Tribes to develop a deeper knowledge about specific elements of the early care and education system that supports quality infant/toddler child care. NITCCI collects and disseminates information on infant/toddler child care supply, investments, and initiatives; produces materials and resources; and responds to requests for information and technical assistance related to infant/toddler child care.

**What's New**  
This section highlights new publications, webinars, resources, and events and includes the most recent e-newsletter.  
Go to [What's New](#) page.

**State & Territory Information**  
This section offers information about infants, toddlers and their families, and the child care system that serves them in each State and Territory, including:  
• Amount and use of CCDF Targeted Quality dollars  
• State/Territory Profiles  
• Searchable Database  
Go to [State & Territory Information](#) page.

**Resources**  
This section includes two types of information resources, listed by topic area:  
• Publications and resources developed by NITCCI  
• Related Resources  
Go to [Resources](#) page.

a project of the  
**Child Care Bureau**

**2000 M St., NW, Suite 200  
Washington DC 20036  
202-638-1144**

**Thank you  
for joining us  
today**

<http://nitcci.nccic.acf.hhs.gov>

